

Message Text

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15

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TAGS: PFOR, OCON, YO

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON FORCES AND PATHWAYS OF WAR AND PEACE,
ZAGREB, SEPTEMBER 8-13, 1975

REF: ZAGREB 0756

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "FORCES AND PARTHWAYS OF WAR AND PEACE" IN ZAGREB SPONSOREDBY YUGOSLAV ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ART, ENDED AS IT BEGAN--WITH A SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SFRY (AND ACADEMICIAN) VLADIMIR BAKARIC. BORBA'S ACCOUNT OF THE FINAL SESSION REPORTED THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY 109 HISTORIANS, ECONOMISTS, LAWYERS, POLITICIANS AND OTHERS FROM 27 FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

2. ON THE BASIS OF PRESS REPORTS, IT WOULD APPEAR THE MOST IMPORTANT SPEECHES WERE THE OPENING AND CLOSING PRESENTATIONS OF BAKARIC AND THE SEPTEMBER 11 ADDRESS BY EDVARD KARDELJ WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SFRY. KARDELJ'S SPEECH WAS PRINTED BY MOST NEWSPAPERS, AS WERE BAKARIC'S. KARDELJ'S SPEECH IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

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3. THERE WERE NO SURPRISES OR BOMBSHELL PRESENTATIONS, AND WE

UNDERSTAND THERE WERE NO ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES. ONE PAPER ENTITLED, "OBITUARY FOR THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT" GIVEN BY A SWEDE PROVED TO BE A DUD. WE WERE TOLD BY PERSONS WHO ATTENDED THE PRESENTATION THAT THE TITLE OF THE PAPER PROMISED FAR MORE THAN WHAT WAS DELIVERED.

4. THE ACTUAL CONDUCT OF THE SEMINAR WAS LESS THAN SMOOTH, IN THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THE SCHEDULED HOURS AND THE SESSIONS RAN ON LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED AS MANY OF THE SPEAKERS RAMBLERD ON. A NUMBER OF THE PARTICIPANTS FAILED TO SUBMIT IN ADVANCE THEIR PAPERS AS HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SPONSORS. ACADEMY SECRETARY TOLD CONSUL GENERAL THAT PAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM BUT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE 1976. ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS RECEIVED BY THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1 WILL BE POUCHED TO EUR/EE.

5. TREATMENT OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE CROATIAN PRESS WAS ADEQUATE BUT NOT EXTRAORDINARY. DAILY REPORTS ON THE CONFERENCE, USUALLY APPEARING AROUND PAGE 5 OR 6, RAN ANYWHERE FROM 15-COLUMN INCHES UP TO ONE-FOURTH PAGE. TYPICALLY, THERE WOULD BE A RUNDOWN ON THE PREVIOUS DAY'S PAPERS, WHO PRESENTED THEM, AND A SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE. THE CONFERENCE OPENING AND CLOSING AS WELL AS KARDELJ'S SPEECH RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT. ALMOST WITHOUT FAIL THE DAILY REPORTS BEGAN WITH A PARAGRAPH INCLUDING THE PHRASE, "THE CONFERENCE IS CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF PRESIDENT TITO..."

7. ONE NON-GOVERNMENTAL AMERICAN WHO ATTENDED SEVERAL SESSIONS RELATED THAT A JAPANESE SPEAKER CRITICIZED YUGOSLAVIA FOR SELLING ARMS TO THE THIRD WORLD. THE FOLLOWING SPEAKER, A YUGOSLAV, OFFERED AN IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC (BUT NOT MORAL) REBUTTAL, ARGUING (A) YUGOSLAVIA MUST HAVE MILITARY STRENGTH TO BE INDEPENDENT, (B) TO HAVE MILITARY STRENGTH IT NEEDS AN ARMS INDUSTRY, AND (C) TO KEEP ITS ARMS INDUSTRY HEALTHY AND WORKING IT MUST SELL ABROAD.
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